MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Government has set up a Committee on Maritime Education & Training under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. P. Srivastava, in October, 1991. One of the terms of reference of the Committee is to make recommendations regarding appropriate changes as may be needed in the institutional framework for imparting training, including feasibility and desirability of bringing the institutes or any future unit under a University type of structure. The report of the Committee is yet to be received. A final decision in this regard can be taken after the receipt of the Committee's report and examination of its recommendations.

Pension to Soldiers of Second World War

6935. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSH-MANAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to provide pension to the living ex-servicemen of the World War II;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ex-Servicemen of World War II are not eligible for pension as they were enganged for short periods ranging from 2-6

years and did not have requisite qualifying service for pension. Several States have, however, instituted schemes for grant of old age pension to the needy persons which would cover the World War II veterans also. Financial assistance from Welfare Funds at the disposal of Ministry of Defence/Services HQrs is also provided to such needy veterans.

[*Translation*]

Action Plan to Increase Export of Agricultural Products

6936. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any action-plan to promote the export of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the names of the products ans the countries which these products are proposed to be exported; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Government have already taken a series of measures to improve policy environment for exports, which is a continues process. These measures have been further re-enforced by the new Import & Export Policy, which has come into force with effect from 1st April, 1992, for a period of five years.

Specific steps taken or proposed to be taken to encourage export of agricultural products are as under:

(A) SHORT-TERM STEPS: Schemes for market development, product promotion, quality upgradation, packaging improvements, competi-

tive pricing, market intelligence, development of infrastructure, removal of constraints and simplification of procedures.

(B) LONG-TERM STEPS: Increasing production and productivity, penetration into new markets, product development, promotion of export oriented processing industries,

improving credibility and image of Indian food products.

The agricultural products presently being exported are Rice, Wheat, Sugar, Spices, Cashewnuts, Groundnut, Fruits and Vegetables, etc.

(c) The tentative target for export during 1992-93 are as below:–

(Value Rs. Crores)

S. No.	Commodity	1992-93 (Tentative Target)
1.	Rice	800
2.	Wheat	Nil
3.	Other Cereals	50
4.	Spices	350
5.	Cashewnuts	650
6.	Groundnut	50
7.	Sugar & Molasses	200
8.	Fruits and Vegetables	350
9.	Processed Fruits and Vegetabeles	125
10.	Misc. Processed Items	220

Export of Rice, Wheat, Cereals and Sugar depend on the availability of surplus for export after the requirement for domestic sector has been met.

[*English*]

Pre-shipment Documentation Procedure

6938. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4771 on December 20, 199' and state:

(a) whether the new standardised pre shipment documentation procedure has been reviewed by the Export Facilitation Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof nd the out-